

Stock Exchange President Says 'Thanks'

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Torrance

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STOCKPILE BOOKLETS . . . Members of the League of Women Voters carry stacks of the League's Candidate Questionnaire booklet into the Torrance Recreation Center in preparation for tonight's "Meet the Candidates" session. Carrying the booklets are, from left, Mrs. Howard Foote and Mrs. James Hawkins, voter service chairman, and Mrs. Frank Barnes, vice president of the League of Women Voters. Tonight's meeting will begin at 7:30. (Press-Herald Photo)

At Recreation Center

Candidates to Speak on Campaign Issues Tonight

With less than two weeks remaining until the municipal election, residents have been invited to "Meet the Candidates" tonight at the Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd. The meeting, which begins at 7:30, is under the sponsorship of the Torrance League of Women Voters. All candidates for mayor, city clerk, city treasurer, and the city council have accepted invitations to speak at the meeting, according to Mrs. I. W. Boxer, program chairman.

EACH CANDIDATE will be given equal time for a statement of his qualifications and views, with time being reserved for questions from the audience, Mrs. Boxer explained.

Printed replies to questionnaires sent by the League to

Hahn Wants Report On Land Valuations

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn has called for a full report on why the county was prepared to purchase for \$275,000 a piece of property assessed at only \$15,350.

Hahn blocked the recommendation of the Real Estate Management Department as it came before the Board of Supervisors.

The property, needed for the construction of the new County Health Department administrative headquarters, is at the northeast corner of Temple and Figueroa streets.

THE ASSESSED valuation in 1965 totaled \$14,750 for land and \$500 for improvements.

Mail Getting Heavier, Chamber Staff Reports

Mail is getting heavier these days at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

A large portion of the more than 2,000 pieces of mail which arrive each month requires an answer of some type—brochures, maps, facts about Torrance, or a letter answering a specific request.

It is a chamber staff policy that all mail requesting information will be answered within 36 hours (sooner, if possible). In addition to answering

all candidates will be distributed at the meeting. Included in the publication is an outline of the duties of each contested office, biographical information on the candidates, and statements by each candidate as to his interests in city government and how he plans to apply these interests for the benefit of the city.

THE PUBLICATION is also available at all Torrance public libraries or may be obtained in quantities by calling Mrs. James Hawkins at 375-1665.

An information sheet on the three proposed City Charter amendments appearing on the April 12 ballot will be available at tonight's meeting. Principle provisions, background information, and the major arguments of proponents and opponents of each of the ballot measures have been outlined by the League on the information sheet.

Hahn has been critical in recent weeks of a "double standard" evident in the assessment of property and the purchase of property for public use.

"This is one of the most vivid examples I've seen," Hahn said. "The assessed valuation, set by the County Assessor, is only 5 1/2 per cent of the \$275,000 purchase price recommended by the County Real Estate Management Department."

He asked the Chief Administrative Officer Lindon Hollinger, to make a full and complete report on the wide variation by April 14.

These and other weighty problems of concern to voting Americans and their congressional representatives are being discussed this month by a group of Torrance 13-year-olds.

WEIGHING THE merits of legislation drawn up by committees of their classmates are eighth grade students at Anza Elementary School. The students are members of Mrs. Carmen Bostic's government class.

They are participating in a model congress in order to

learn by actual experience how the American way of government actually works. Before the legislative sessions got under way, students wrote to senators and representatives in Washington for background information. They studied the Congressional Record, learned the rules and procedures of the Senate, and read up on their areas of legislative interest.

Based on their research, they formed opinions and organized committees to draw up bills. Each committee authored a bill they would like to see put into effect if they were serving in Congress.

City Workers to Get Retroactive Pay Hike

City Among 400 Offering a Home To 'Wall Street'

Torrance's invitation to the New York Stock Exchange to relocate in this city was answered last night with a distant "maybe."

In a letter to Mayor Albert Isen and Chamber of Commerce President Bruce Jones, G. Keith Funston expressed "thanks" on behalf of the stock exchange for the invitation.

"We are not in a position to make even the most informal kind of commitment to any community," Funston wrote.

He told the local leaders the stock exchange is concentrating its initial search in New York metropolitan area, but added, "as we look beyond nearby New Jersey and Connecticut, we will look forward to the possibility of discussing this matter with your (the mayor's) office."

Funston said the Board of

Governors of the exchange had received more than 400 invitations from communities throughout the nation. Each one, he added, "is being individually evaluated."

The exchange board voted March 22 to cancel plans for a new headquarters building in New York City after Mayor John V. Lindsay called for a 50 per cent increase in the city's stock transfer tax. Last week's invitation to relocate in Torrance was issued on behalf of the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce by Isen and Jones.

Temporary Billboard Ban Voted

A 90-day moratorium on the construction of billboards in the city was enacted by the City Council last night by a 6-1 vote. George Vico was the only dissenter.

A similar moratorium, sought by Mayor Albert Isen, was turned down by a 4-3 vote of the council last week.

Councilmen directed building superintendent John J. McKinnon not to issue permits for construction of billboards unless the request is specifically approved by the council.

The moratorium was enacted at the request of the Torrance Beautiful Commission. Commissioners became alarmed about the billboards when eight permits for outdoor signs were requested early last week.

The commission currently is studying a billboard ordinance.

Supervisors Praise City

The "fantastic growth" of Torrance was cited by the county supervisors Tuesday as they saluted the city and the Chamber of Commerce in recognition of its third place ranking in Los Angeles county.

Supervisor Burton W. Chace praised the dynamic leadership of the community when he presented scrolls to Mayor Albert Isen and City Manager Edward J. Ferraro for the city and to President Bruce Jones and Manager J. Walker Owens of the Chamber of Commerce.

Chace pointed out that Torrance population had grown from 22,000 in 1950 to a present estimate of 140,000.

Class Weighs Problems of Nation in Model Congress

Would the nation's poverty problem be solved by adding a \$2 poverty tab to every taxpayer's bill?

Should this country abolish capital punishment?

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Are City Councilmen Underpaid?

Are Torrance City Councilmen underpaid at \$100 a month — plus expenses?

Is there a pressing need to increase their regular salaries to \$300 a month and the mayor's pay to \$400 a month — plus expenses?

The Press-Herald today discusses these questions in its lead editorial on page C-2. The questions will be answered by the voters at the polls April 12 when they mark their ballots on Charter Amendments A and B.

In a second editorial, the Press-Herald reports on the plan to offer scholarships to outstanding high school seniors who intend to make newspapering a career, and on the working of Sir Thomas Gresham's 400-year-old law on good and bad money.

Report on Torrance Now Ready

Complete and accurate information which can be used by industry in the search for new locations in Torrance is the goal of a new "Standard Industrial Survey Summary Report" now being distributed by the Industrial Development Committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

The document gives a standardized, up-to-date, factual report on Torrance as a site for industrial and commercial enterprises. It has been published following months of intensive study and research by the chamber's staff and a sub-committee of the Industrial Development Committee.

The last survey report produced in Torrance was prepared in 1959. Most of the information given in it was completely obsolete and the entire survey had to be rewritten.

The report has joined hundreds of others in the Sacramento office of the California State Chamber of Commerce. The state chamber prepares the format and maintains the reports for every city in California wishing to utilize the service.

Use of the standard form allows industries seeking new locations to make easy comparison, point by point, of any number of cities which might be under consideration.

The Torrance chamber has 5,000 copies to use to answer inquiries from out of town industrial representatives, industrial realtors, commercial developers, and others seeking data on Torrance. Copies may be obtained free of charge at the Chamber of Commerce, 1510 Cravens Ave.

Most Employees Get 7 Per Cent Hike on Jan. 1

Wage increases averaging 7 per cent were given city employees last night by a unanimous vote of the City Council.

All increases are retroactive to Jan. 1 of this year, with the total cost of the package pegged at \$496,000 per year.

Formal action on the hikes will be completed next week when councilmen are given the enabling ordinance for adoption.

Councilmen acted on a wage and job classification survey done for the city by J. L. Jacobs and Co. of Chicago, Ill. The survey, which cost the city \$10,500, was hailed by H. Ted Olson as a "great forward step." Olson said the city had "pioneered in a new innovation" by sitting down with employees and discussing the report.

"Nobody is completely happy," he added, "but if everybody got what they wanted, no one would be doing their job."

ACTUAL cost of the recommendations made in the Jacobs survey was estimated at \$312,000 by assistant city manager Jerome I. Scharfman. The remaining costs are the result of a 2 1/2 per cent "area differential" approved in addition to hikes recommended by the survey.

No across-the-board increases were recommended by the Jacobs firm, although some individual increases ranged as high as 8 per cent, Scharfman said.

In some instances, lower salaries than those now being paid were recommended. The lower salaries will be applied where new employees are

hired, but no employee will take a salary cut as a result of last night's action.

ACCORDS on recommendations contained in the survey were reached after more than six weeks of meetings between employe groups and city administrators. Only three major areas of disagreement were evident last night.

One — the "area differential" — was solved when councilmen rejected a 1 1/2 per cent differential recommended by City Manager Edward J. Ferraro in favor of the 2 1/2 per cent differential. The premium is based "on the premise that the cost of housing is higher in Torrance than elsewhere."

A second area of contention involved placement of fire department engineers and captains on the salary scales. The Jacobs firm recommended salary ranges one class below the placement of police department sergeants and lieutenants. Councilmen, on recommendation of their own three-man study committee, voted to place the fire department positions on the same classes as police personnel.

"WE HAVE treated these departments the same for years," Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. told the audience, "Now there seems to be divergent opinion."

A presentation by Ray Silagy of the Torrance Police Department opposing departures from the placement schedule recommended by the Jacobs firm was cut short by Mayor Albert Isen and councilmen voted unanimously (Continued on Page A-3)

Police Slate Auction - - -

A public auction will be conducted by the Torrance Police Department Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Bicycles and other unclaimed property will be sold at the auction, to be held at the rear of the police station, according to Lt. Robert E. Hammond.

Three-Year-Old Killed - - -

Three-year-old Dorothy Jane Ridel was struck by an auto and killed when she ran into the street near her home Tuesday afternoon. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ridel, of 4516 Bulova St., Dorothy Jane was pronounced dead at Little Company of Mary Hospital shortly after the 12:27 a.m. accident. Driver of the vehicle was not held. Another child, Patty Dee Hight, was fatally injured at about the same time when she was hit by a car her father, Chester Hight, was backing from the family driveway at 1904 Clark Lane, Redondo Beach.

Swindle Plea Scheduled - - -

Seven men, including a Torrance physician, have been ordered to appear on May 4 to enter pleas on charges of swindling nearly \$700,000 from a Long Beach bank. Ordered to return were Dr. Lester Sacks, with offices at 5005 Pacific Coast Hwy. and 2035 Torrance Blvd.; Luther Swink, San Pedro; Samuel A. Longo, Garden Grove; Joseph Cvecko, Lakewood; Gordon Her, Santa Monica; Charles Wall, Canoga Park, and Philip Sanders, Santa Monica. An eighth man, Ira Sacks of Bel Air, did not appear Tuesday and Superior Court Judge Arthur Alarcon issued a bench warrant for him. He has been identified as the brother of Dr. Sacks of Torrance.